(a) whether Government are providing assistance to various State Governments for the Small Scale Industry sector;

(b) if so, the details of the assistance provided during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the quantum of assistance to various State Governments particularly Tamil Nadu during the current financial year; and

(d) the number of workers benefited as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) The development of the Small Scale Industry (SSI) sector is primarily the responsibility of the respective State/Union Territory (UT) Governments. The Central Government supports and supplements the efforts of State/UT Governments through implementation of various scheme relating to fiscal and credit support, infrastructural development, technology upgradation, marketing, entrepreneurial development, etc., which are uniformly implemented across the country, including Tamil Nadu. The allocation of funds is made scheme-wise, not State-wise.

(d) The policies/schemes of Government for promotion of the small scale sector facilities setting up of units by individual entrepreneurs and thereby create employment opportunities. The estimated number of jobs created in the registered SSIs during the last three years is 12,63,907.

Increase of satellites

1253. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the newly set up Master Control Facility of ISRO has become operational;

(b) in what manner the Master Control Facility helps in increasing the number of satellites in INSAT system; and

(c) to what extent the country has achieved self-sufficiency in rocket technology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The new facilities set up at Bhopal are presently equipped to control two INSAT class satellites in addition to the satellite controlled by the Master Control Facility at Hassan.

(c) India is completely self-sufficient for launching remote sensing satellites using Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) and 2-tonne class communication satellites using Geo-synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV).

Setting up of an Earth Station

1254. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and USA are holding discussions for setting up an Earth Station in India for receiving data from US-National Polar-Orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System (NPOESS);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the advantages that India would benefit from this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) US-National Polar-Orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System (NPOESS) is a US system satellites to monitor global environmental conditions and collect and disseminate data related to weather, atmosphere, ocean, land and near space environment. A US proposal for setting up an earth station in India for receiving data from NPOESS has been received by the Indian Space Research Organisation.

(c) On successful implementation of the project, India would get real time access to scientific data of importance to earth sciences, environment and meteorology.

Launching of next PSLV

1255. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is getting ready for next PSLV launch;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the preparation for the launch of Chandrayaan were going on well; and

(d) if so, the details thereof;